

### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A system having a modifiable backplane capability, the system comprising:
  - a chassis;
  - an embedded backplane positioned within the chassis and adapted to receive a plurality of daughter boards; and
  - a replaceable module positioned proximate to the embedded backplane and adapted to receive the daughter boards, wherein ~~the system is modifiable depending on a selected characteristic of the replaceable module~~ includes one or more data paths, wherein each data path transfers data between two or more daughter boards;  
wherein the embedded backplane and the replaceable module are configured such that data transfer bandwidth can be added between the two or more daughter boards without replacing the embedded backplane.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the chassis is adapted for receiving both the embedded backplane and the replaceable module.
3. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the embedded backplane is positioned between the daughter boards and the replaceable module.
4. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein at least one of the daughter boards includes a connector adapted to extend through the embedded backplane and into the replaceable module.
5. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein the embedded backplane includes a plurality of openings, and wherein the replaceable module is configured to receive the daughter boards via the plurality of openings.

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6. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein the chassis includes an opening proximate to the embedded backplane for accessing the replaceable module.
7. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein at least one of the daughter boards includes a first connector adapted to connect to the embedded backplane and a second connector adapted to connect to the replaceable module.
8. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the embedded backplane is in signal communication with the replacement module.
9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the replaceable module is a replaceable backplane, ~~and wherein the selected characteristic of the replaceable backplane provides the system with additional bandwidth.~~
10. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the replaceable backplane includes a plurality of general purpose slots, wherein each general purpose slot is adapted to receive a daughter board.
11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10 further comprising a router card connected to one of the general purpose slots, wherein the router card is adapted to control the flow of data through the replaceable module.
12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11 wherein the replaceable module further includes first and second sets of data transfer paths connecting each general purpose slot and the router card, wherein the first set of data transfer paths is adapted to transfer data from each general purpose slot to the router card, and wherein the second set of data transfer paths is configured to transfer data from the router card to each general purpose slot.

13. (Currently Amended) A replaceable module adapted for modifying at least one characteristic of a telecommunications device having an embedded backplane, the module comprising:

a body portion, wherein the body portion includes a plurality of data paths;

a plurality of connections in communication with the data paths for connecting at least one of the data paths to ~~one~~ two or more printed circuit boards such that one of the printed circuit boards can transfer data to another of the printed circuit boards across the data path; and

alignments means for positioning the module with respect to the backplane, wherein the alignment means is configured such that data transfer bandwidth can be added between the two or more daughter boards plugged into the embedded backplane without replacing the embedded backplane.

14. (Original) The replaceable module of claim 13 wherein the connections are positioned on the module to correspond to openings in the embedded backplane.

15. (Currently Amended) The replaceable module of claim 13 further comprising:

~~— a plurality of printed circuit boards in signal communication with the connections; and~~  
connection means for connecting at least one router board, ~~wherein the router board is attached~~ to each printed circuit board via at least one data path.

16. (Currently Amended) The replaceable module of claim ~~15~~ 13 further comprising connection means for connecting a router board ~~is attached~~ to each printed circuit board via first and second data paths, wherein the first data path is adapted to transfer data from the printed circuit board to the router board, and wherein the second data path is adapted to transfer data from the router board to the printed circuit board.

17. (Original) The replaceable module of claim 16 wherein the first and second data paths each comprise a pair of signal lines.

18. (Currently Canceled)

19. (Currently Canceled)

20. (Currently Canceled)